

H.R. 1572: Boycott Our Enemies Not Israel

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) is a global campaign to smear Israel as a violator of human rights and isolate it among the international community.

The movement's stated aims are: Create global boycotts of Israeli universities and industries, pressure governments, banks and industries to divest themselves of investments in Israel, and obtain international sanctions against Israel, its economy, and its people. This includes both entities within and without the 1967 borders.

The BDS movement is a threat to Israel's international standing and to its economic stability. Regrettably, in the nine years since its inception, the BDS movement has had considerable success. In Europe, several universities, academic organizations, and student unions decided to boycott the Israeli academia. In the business world, the BDS movement has managed to pressure several European companies and banks to boycott and divest from Israel, as well as to boycott companies that import and sell Israeli products.

The past few years saw the BDS movement strike roots in America, mainly on university campuses and with NGOs.

U.S Policy

As the only democracy in the Middle East and the closest ally of the U.S. in the region, the strength and stability of Israel is in American foreign and security policy's best interest. The Export Administration Act of 1979 stipulates that the United States may promote its foreign policy by means of regulating business and commerce.

Drawing on that, the bill takes the **proactive stance**. To date, the BDS movement hasn't has any success within the business sector. This bill aims to maintain this by preventing U.S. Government funds from supporting the boycott campaign against Israel.

What this bill does:

- Requires a potential contractor to certify that he is not a boycotting person.
- Defines a boycotting person as one who takes or knowingly agrees to take boycotting actions against Israel.
- Defines boycotting actions as refusing or requiring another person to refuse to do business with Israel or Israeli person with the **intent to comply with, further, or support any boycott against the State of Israel¹**.
- Penalize false certifications by contractors with two-year debarment.

¹ Refusal to do business with Israel or Israeli person without the intent to further or support a boycott **does not define the potential contractor as a boycotting person.**